



## **US Department of the Interior**

Bureau of Land Management  
Coeur d'Alene District  
Coeur d'Alene Field Office, Idaho

February 2005



## **Coeur d'Alene Field Office Planning Area**

# **Mineral Occurrence and Development Potential Report**





# **MINERAL OCCURRENCE AND DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL REPORT**

## **COEUR D'ALENE FIELD OFFICE PLANNING AREA**

Prepared for

**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**  
Coeur d'Alene Field Office  
1808 North Third Street  
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814-3407

Prepared by

**TETRA TECH, INC.**

180 Howard Street, Suite 250  
San Francisco, California 94105

4900 Pearl East Circle, Suite 300W  
Boulder, Colorado 80301

and

**SILVERFIELDS, INC.**  
2816 Hill Rd  
Boise, Idaho 83703

February 2005



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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

Acronym or Abbreviation	Full Phrase
BIA	Bureau of Indian Affairs
BLM	United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management
BOR	Bureau of Reclamation
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
EIS	environmental impact statement
Forest Service	United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service
KGRA	known geothermal resource areas
MFP	Management Framework Plan
planning area	Coeur d'Alene Field Office RMP planning area
RMP	resource management plan
ROW	right-of-way
US	United States
USC	United States Code



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The mineral resource potential was evaluated as part of the Resource Management Plan for the Coeur D'Alene Field Office area. The leasable, acquired lands leasable, locatable, and salable commodities, including fuel and nonfuel varieties, were assessed..

The report includes sections on geology, mineral resources, and mineral resource potential, and recommendations.

A summary of the geology and geological conditions that are important for the formation of mineral resources in the region is presented. The description of the mineral resources includes the documentation of mines, prospects, and occurrences that are present within the planning area. Tabulation of production or resources figures for various commodities is presented where available.

The mineral resource potential was rated according to the criteria outlined in BLM Manual 3031, Mineral Potential Resource Classification. A high mineral resource classification was assigned to the following commodities where the BLM has a significant land base:

- Silver/lead/zinc in the Coeur d'Alene Mining District;
- Gold in the Murray Mining District;
- Garnet, both abrasive and recreational, in the Emerald Creek District;
- Sand/gravel/aggregate in the Coeur d'Alene and Pend Oreille areas; and

- Dimension stone throughout the planning area (dimension stone is any naturally occurring stone that is used for building or ornamental purposes).

Strategic minerals were evaluated as low potential, although this is based on limited information. Energy resources, including oil/gas, coal, and geothermal energy, have a low potential in the planning area. All of the other minerals within the various mineral management categories are considered to have low potential.

Recommendations are as follows:

- Review and update the mineral resource classification annually.
- Identify and evaluate areas or commodities that require additional assessment due to their critical status or important location. These include the strategic minerals cobalt-nickel, thorium-rare earths, and niobium-tantalum.
- Complete a higher level of mineral resources assessment within current areas considered for special designation or withdrawal status. This includes placer deposits of gold or black-sands and sand/gravel/aggregate resources.